GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1917
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2006
CHILDREN LANGUISHING IN CHILDREN S HOME
Kumar Shri Shailendra;Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that thousands of children are languishing for years in State run children's homes in the country as reported in Hindustan Times dated November 04, 2006 under the newsitem 'Red tape tangle: wonder years lost in custody';

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government and the direction issued to States in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) Government is aware of this news report. There are around 1200 children in 10 Children Homes being run by the Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi. These are abandoned, destitute and neglected children. Most of them are run away children from outside Delhi. The Department of Social Welfare has reported that they have taken adequate steps for tracing the parents and facilitating their restoration. The Child Welfare Committees which have been constituted under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 facilitate in tracing their parents and restoration. Additional steps undertaken are given in a statement placed at the Annexure.

ANNEXURE

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1917 for 05.12.06 raised by Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu and Shri Shailendra Kumar regarding `Children Languishing in Cehildren`s Home` Steps taken by the Government of NCT of Delhi for tracing the parents of inmates and facilitating restoration to their respective families

A. Steps taken for inmates belonging to Delia:

(1) Registered letters/postcard are sent at the address given by children. Letters are also sent simultaneously to the in-charges of the local police station & Pradhans of the respective villages. Missing Persons Squad is also contacted.

(2) Spot visits of the addresses/locations as told by the children are also conducted to trace the families.

(3) If the parents or the address of children are not traceable,then the photographs of such children are published in leading newspapers.

(4) If the address/ the parents are located by the above two steps, either the parents of children turn up to take their children or the Welfare Officer of the institution visit them and facilitates them in restoration of their children.

(5) The last step in restoration is that the parents come to the Child Welfare Committees who after identification handover the children to them.

B. Steps taken for inmates belonging to outside Delhi:

(1) Registered letters/postcard are sent at the address given by children. Letters are also sent simultaneously to the in-charges of the local police station & Pradhansof the respective villages.

(2) Telephonic communication is also made in the cases where the children are able to tell their telephone numbers.

(3) If the address/ the parents are located by th above two, either the parents of children turn up to take their children. If the parents are not abletp come because of poverty or some other reasons, such children are sent to their parents or the respective children home of the State under Police Protection.